

English I: Unit 04

Reading Appetizer

Purpose: Reading Appetizers expose students to the vast variety of reading materials in the world in order to encourage independent reading.

Time: 3–5 min.

Description: At the beginning of each class period that focuses on the writing component, each group receives a packet and students read one persuasive piece from their packet. (This can be done individually with self-selected persuasive pieces as well.)

Option 1: Students look for and log in their Reader's Notebook the visual images and impact of those images.

Option 2: Students look for and record in their Reader's Notebook the "loaded language" found in the text and describe the emotional impact of that language.

Option 3: Students describe in their Reader's Notebook additional media that would support the author's position and persuade the audience.

Option 4: Instruct students to locate one claim within their text that they have doubts about. In their Reader's Notebook, students create questions that could arise from these claims. (For example, one out of five veterinarians believes that dogs outlive cats. Is this in a particular area of the country where cats live outdoors and temperatures are below 30 degrees for seven months of the year? Was this article from 1902 when cats were not pets?)

Preparation: As the unit begins, instruct students to find and bring in a copy of one persuasive text on a current event that they found controversial. The articles/texts are compiled into folders that contain four of these texts. These texts can come from different sources but all sources should be referenced or cited in the text. Students will read these texts throughout the Unit 04 Reading and Writing Appetizers.